

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. By this Response, claim 5 has been amended to correct for typographical errors and claim 20 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,905 to Pepe et al. ("Pepe '905") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0161658 A1 to Sussman ("Sussman '658"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905 does not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the reference fails to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe '905 and Sussman '658, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,530 to Ritchie ("Ritchie '530"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905 and Ritchie '530 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe '905, Sussman '658 and Ritchie '530, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,144 to Henrie et al. ("Henrie '144"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905, Ritchie '530 and Henrie '144 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe '905 and Sussman '658, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,485,519 to Weiss ("Weiss '519"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905 and Weiss '519 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claims 18, 21, 22, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe '905 and Sussman '658, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,692 to Shanahan ("Shanahan '692"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905 and Shanahan '692 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pepe '905, Sussman '658 and Shanahan '692, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,816 to Zeah et al. ("Zeah '816"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a reference. Because Pepe '905, Shanahan '692 and Zeah '816 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

Claim 26 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pepe '905, Sussman '658, Shanahan '692 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,749 to Zhu et al. ("Zhu '749"). The Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 submitted herewith establishes invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims prior to February 13, 2001, the effective date of Sussman '658. Applicants therefore assert that Sussman '658 is disqualified as a

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reference. Because Pepe '905, Shanahan '692 and Zeah '816 do not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations, the references fail to satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

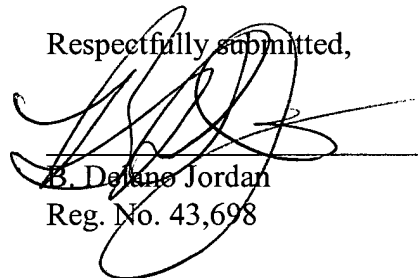
Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass this case to issue at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment in connection with this correspondence to Deposit Account 11-0600.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 220-4275.

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Respectfully submitted,



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